

*With the Committee's report the complete*

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HEALTH OF TOWNS.

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REPORT OF THE SPEECHES

OF

E. CHADWICK, ESQ., DR. SOUTHWOOD SMITH,  
RICHARD TAYLOR, ESQ., JAMES ANDERTON, ESQ.,  
AND OTHERS,

AT A MEETING HELD AT THE LONDON COFFEE HOUSE ON THE 17TH  
OF AUGUST, 1847.

TO PROMOTE A SUBSCRIPTION

IN BEHALF OF THE

WIDOW AND CHILDREN

OF

D R. J. R. L Y N C H,

WHO DIED OF FEVER, CAUGHT IN THE COURSE OF EXERTIONS TO ALLEVIATE THE  
SUFFERINGS OF THE POOR, AND TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF SANITARY  
IMPROVEMENT OF THE METROPOLIS; WITH A LIST OF THE NAMES  
OF THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SUBSCRIBED.

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1847.



# REPORT OF THE SPEECHES,

&c. &c.

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The chair was taken by Edwin Chadwick, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN said—I am the bearer of a message from my noble friend Lord Ebrington, who would have presided, expressive of his regret that he had been obliged to leave England, and enclosing a contribution in aid of the object of the meeting; but had he been at home he would have been prevented attending, for death has been busy in his own family. It is, however, satisfactory to see here assembled private and professional friends of Dr. Lynch, the leading members of the Common Council of his ward, and of the board of guardians of the union to which he was attached as a medical officer. Deep as may be the feelings of those who knew him in those circles, the claims to sympathy for the case extend beyond the ward, or the city of London, or the Metropolis, to the public at large. My impression of the melancholy case which brings us here together will be the best presented by stating what I knew of him whose loss we deplore. At the commencement of the inquiry into the sanitary condition of the labouring population, queries were sent out to the medical officers of the several unions. The answers received from Dr. Lynch displayed so much information and attention to the subject that I entered into communication with him. He was a young practitioner, and I am informed that his income from his practice was about £700 per annum. I found him ready at all times to bestow labour upon the subject of sanitary improvement, to the sacrifice of his professional time, for which he was aware I had no means of remunerating him. For the purpose of investigation he was a repeated visitor of districts inhabited chiefly by the labouring classes out of the range of his duty as a medical officer. At my request he constructed a map, in which was shown



the locality, the house, as well as the street, in which every fever case had occurred, within a large district during a long period of time. This was a highly important service, being one of the first maps I could procure to trace the *habitat* of typhus, to exhibit its close coincidence with the track of cholera and other epidemics, and their identity with bad drainage, filth, over crowding, and bad ventilation. He had made observations, and was preparing other contributions to the determination of the extent of the removable causes of disease. With the sole view of impressing his fellow citizens with the information upon this subject, he went out of his professional course, and got himself elected a member of the Court of Common Council. He had foreseen and foretold the recurrence and aggravation of epidemics within his district whilst it remained in its present physical condition. Parts of his exertions to move measures of relief are already known through the public press. Some days before his death he called upon me to inform me of the severity of the visitation of typhus in the old tracts, and the peculiarities of the type, including a frequent attack upon the throat. He was at that time going out of his professional course, engaged in visiting poor people for the purpose of making renewed public representations, endeavouring to get the attendance of his ward inquest, preparing petitions to the Court of Common Council. When stating to me the intensity of the attack and the condition of these places, he also expressed to me a sense of the personal danger, but said cheerfully there was no avoiding it—it must be undergone. I believe it was only a day or two after he last called upon me that I received the following note from Mrs. Lynch :—

“ 24, Farringdon-street, June 22.

“ Dear Sir,—Knowing the interest you feel in my husband’s sanitary proceedings, I beg to state that the spread of fever is sadly realised in his own person. After visiting about twenty cases last week, he was suddenly seized with shivering, intolerance of light, total prostration, and dreadful pain over his whole body, and all the symptoms of the worst sort of typhus. We sent for a gentleman who understands his own peculiar mode of treatment (having no confidence in any other). His sufferings for several days were very great, superadded to which a complication of the most alarming description of inflammation, &c., of the entire windpipe, the dangers from suffocation became so imminent that we sent for Mr. Yearsley to be prepared to perform tracheotomy; but I am happy to say that the skill of these gentlemen averted the necessity.

“ I am, Sir, yours obediently,

“ E. Chadwick, Esq.

“ MARTHA LYNCH.”



I was considering of a note of congratulation on his escape when I was stunned by the announcement of his death (Hear, hear.) Now I base the claim of the widow and children, who are left unprovided for, on the fact that the service in which Dr. Lynch fell was a public service; that it was extra professional and special, and of a high order of importance. This service, against ravages greater than the ravages of war, is, when closely pursued, attended with dangers really greater than those of military service, but without the glory, the excitement, and the support; and requiring science and qualifications, the relative value of which it is necessary to discuss. An occasional case or two occurring in miscellaneous practice, a short visit, by a strong person, or one in an undepressed and unsusceptible condition, may be attended with no serious danger; but visits to classes of cases, and continued exposure to such miasma, appears to be always eventually or immediately attended with injurious effects. Those who have entered long and closely into sanitary investigations, have themselves, for the most part, experienced in their own persons the effects of states of places such as they have visited and described. Out of twelve or fourteen cases of gentlemen who have entered into sanitary investigations, the majority have had their own health affected in various degrees, and this case of Dr. Lynch is the third, if not the fourth, case which has terminated fatally. Another instance is that of Mr. Dyce Guthrie, a surgeon who explored for me several of the lower districts in the Metropolis. In the evidence given before the Commissioners of Inquiry into the Means of Improving the Health of Towns, will be found the results of important observations on the advantages of a tubular system of drainage, which he was engaged in improving. He has been killed. He was engaged in the lower districts of Belfast, when he was himself subjected to a febrile attack which proved fatal. Mr. Butler Williams, a very able engineer, a professor of geology at the College of Civil Engineers at Putney, who examined the state of drainage in the city of London, and gave very successful attention to the special engineering appliances for the improvement of the health of towns, is another important and melancholy instance. In the evidence taken before the commissioners will be found proof of his capacity, and how much might have been expected from him. He has been killed by a febrile attack whilst in some other service. At Glasgow he was subjected to an attack of illness, which he, in all probability, would not have sustained had he not been exposed to such an atmosphere when overworked. He and Mr. Dyce Guthrie had arranged to meet at Belfast to consult as to the means of improving the sanitary condition of that town, but both were cut off by the very causes which they were endeavouring to abate or prevent. One of



the most strenuous writers in support of sanitary measures was Mr. John Johns, a member of the Town Mission of Liverpool. From him I derived important corroborative information derived from his house visits of the lower districts. He has been recently killed by the epidemic at that place. I beg leave to read the account of his death, which a lady has sent me from thence. "Mr. Johns died of fever, caught in his visits to his poor people, after remonstrance from his friends, and using every precaution which he considered duty would allow." She gives examples of what he found in his visits—"In one small cellar, with no window, eighteen persons in fever, lying in wet dirty straw. In one house he counted eighty-one, in another sixty-one, in every stage of fever, on straw in the corners. I believe these were (as I know one house with thirty-one cases was) uninhabited houses, into which the poor people had crept for shelter. A subscription was entered into by the supporters of the mission who had sent him on his dangerous duty, for his widow and family. It is now above 2,000*l*." After alluding to the deaths of medical men, for whose families no subscriptions have yet been raised, she says, "I much wish something may be done for them. It is a cruel injustice. At the time of the cholera nothing was done for the families of the medical men who died." (Hear, hear.)

I will now ask your consideration of a summary of the recent deaths in the service of alleviation. At Liverpool, one minister of the Established Church died. One curate had a narrow escape. One Dissenting minister died. There are stated to have been eighteen Roman Catholic priests at Liverpool; the deaths of eight of them from fever have been registered. I believe that of a ninth may be added. But of twenty-five medical officers and their assistants, twenty have had fever, either in a mild or a severe form, and it was fatal in four instances. This is exclusive of assistants. Ten relieving-officers and assistant relieving-officers have been carried off there by fever. The captain of the Akbar hospital-ship and his assistant have been cut off. In all, nineteen of the persons engaged in the administration of relief have fallen at Liverpool. At Manchester, Mr. Walker, a medical officer, who had written a work on the diseases of the eye, and otherwise contributed to the advancement of medical science, had been cut off; also two relieving-officers—in all, fifteen officers engaged in the public service in the administration of relief. Mr. Noble, a medical officer who had written on sanitary improvement, has been attacked by fever. At Leeds there have died the junior curate of the Leeds parish church, and five Roman Catholic clergymen, and one medical man, who took upon himself the duties of the medical officer when laid prostrate by fever, caught the fever



himself and died, and three nurses; at Rochdale, one medical officer and two nurses died; at Warrington, one medical officer died; at Ashton-under-Lyne, one assistant at the Fever Hospital; at Bolton, one medical officer; at Blackburn, one medical officer; at Birmingham, the district surgeon was killed, also the school-master and assistant-governor of the workhouse, and nine assistants and nurses. The fever has very much abated by the numbers who are enabled to be out in the open air, but it is still rife and deadly in the old tracks pointed out. I will here beg leave to read an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. R. Barker, surgeon of Leeds, from whom I obtained the map of the fever and the cholera tracks in that city, given in the sanitary report —

“Manston, near Leeds, Aug. 15, 1847.

“My dear Sir,—It is quite true that several ministers and one surgeon have fallen victims to the disease which has been so rife near Leeds and other places; if I remember right five Catholic priests, a clergyman of the Church of England, and the surgeon. I was conversing with the latter (Mr. Sharpe) only a few days before he died, when he spoke to me of the sanitary statistics formerly made in Leeds, confirming them, and speaking of the course which the present epidemic was taking in the old yards, and courts and alleys, then described as the usual seats of such diseases. He and Mr. Monk, the clergyman, fell victims to their philanthropy in attending to some poor patients, when, I believe, neglected by all other persons, as did the Catholic clergy on visits to their sick poor, in places which still remain, notwithstanding all that has been said and done for and about Leeds—an outrage on civilised life, destroying valuable lives, and scattering with unsparing hand the same diseases amid other and distant populations. I hardly need say more than this, that our capacious new fever hospital has been long full to overflowing, a large mill has been full, and spacious sheds erected for convalescents have been also full, and the house-surgeon of the Fever Hospital is now lying precariously ill, to condemn in the strongest terms the apathy of the public to the necessary sanitary measures.”

The immediate service of alleviation no one would depreciate, but it will be acknowledged that the service of prevention in which Dr. Lynch fell was of still higher importance. Through such exertions as his the knowledge of the true causes of these epidemics, and the means of prevention, is becoming clearer. We now know well that we could place even well-conditioned persons under such circumstances as to produce typhus. Low and insufficient diet, amidst filth, spread and aggravate it, by depressing the system and rendering it more susceptible; but cleanliness and ventilation will diminish it, even against mental depression and comparatively low diet. We must not lose sight of the fact, as important to the cause of sanitary improvement, that in well-



regulated public establishments—in prisons, for example—where the diet is not higher, and generally lower than that of the people living in these courts and alleys, spontaneous fever has been almost entirely banished. In relation to Liverpool, I have it from the dispensary officers that in the streets and places put in a better condition, the number of cases has been diminished, and the type of those which have occurred is much milder. I have it from Mr. Holland, the surgeon, of Manchester, that parts of the same street, inhabited by the same class of people, which have been newly paved and drained, and better cleansed, have exhibited a marked reduction of the number and severity of the cases of epidemics. The excessive visitations of fever have been always in their origin marked by excessive overcrowding, defective ventilation, and excessive filth. Want and causes of physical depression in Ireland were accompanied by removable causes, which aggravated their effects. I will give the following example communicated to me by a friend who had charge of a large estate:—

“The increase of fever since I wrote has proved to me that the foundation of my argument was right as to the certainty, unless the pools (green fat) at every door be removed by a strong hand, devastation by infection will destroy rich and poor. You should be aware when the poor people had potato seed all that stuff was removed into their potato plots at and by this time, but having no seed the manure is of no use, consequently it remains there, and will still remain the whole hot summer, fermenting poison. Yesterday was a hot day, and walking Lismore I was kept in one continual state of spitting.”

My friend Dr. Southwood Smith could tell you what is observed in fever cases as the result of removal from the noxious influences of vitiated air; he could tell you that on the removal of fever patients from close ill-ventilated rooms and filthy places—the washing them in a warm bath, putting them in clean linen, in comparatively well ventilated rooms, with less impure air—that the effect of this is to reduce delirium, to produce repose, and in a large proportion of cases to put the patient in the course of restoration, without any medical appliances, sometimes before the physician can get to the spot. I confess my own misgivings from the amount of the mortality; that concurrently, with such instances of heroic attention as those I have noticed there has been very much neglect. Prevention of disease, however, is prevention of the neglect. But, simple as may be the means and principles of prevention, they will require large measures, which are not readily, easily, or simply carried out, and they will require for their successful application a combination of professional services; amongst others, as it appears to me, such



services as have been lost in Dr. Lynch. In this, as has been said in relation to other cases, it will not do to trust to the exercise of rare or heroic virtues. Steady efficient service will only be secured by having recourse to the ordinary motives to good service. A public mark of the appreciation of past services, in prevention, may, I hope, be taken as an expression of an opinion that regulated provision should be made for such services for the future. There is at present no public provision for them. The answer of Her Majesty's Government to the applications of local boards for aid, in the cases of union medical and other officers has been that if local subscriptions be raised for the widows or survivors it will be prepared to take those cases into consideration. My own opinion is that, under these circumstances, separate local subscriptions should be raised in each field of service where the deceased has fallen. At Manchester, a subscription has been raised for Mr. Walker, I hope it will be extended to the widows of other officers. The merchants and traders of Liverpool may be expected to make some exertions in behalf of the widows and orphans of their own officers, who have fallen under these extraordinary circumstances. To the City of London, particularly, and to the Metropolis, I hope we may confidently commit the case of the widow and children of Dr. Lynch. (Cheers.) The present time is peculiarly unsuited to have a meeting to do justice to such a subject, as most of those who would have taken the deepest interest in it are now out of town, and we have not thought it necessary to ask any persons to come up to attend to it. I have, however, the honour to be the bearer of subscriptions, with expressions of sympathy, from the Bishop of London and from the Bishop of Norwich. (Hear, hear.) Also from the Duke of Buccleuch, the Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into the Means of Improving the Health of Towns, with a strong expression of his disappointment at the opposition given to sanitary measures during the last session of Parliament. (Hear, hear.) Also subscriptions from Lord Ellesmere, from Lord John Russell, from Lord Ashley, from Lord Morpeth, from Lord Ebrington, from Sir Benjamin Brodie, from Sir James Clark, her Majesty's Physician; from Professor Owen, from Dr. Duncan, the Officer of Health at Liverpool; from Mr. R. A. Slaney, from Mr. Raikes Currie, and from Dr. Southwood Smith. (Cheers.)

Dr. SOUTHWOOD SMITH said—The resolution which I have to propose is a very melancholy one. It does not need a single word from me to recommend it to the sympathy of every person present,



and I hope the feeling it will excite in this meeting will be responded to by many thousands of our countrymen. It is—

“That Dr. Jordan Roche Lynch devoted himself, especially and zealously, during several years, to the development of means for the prevention of disease, and to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the labouring population; and that in the course of special investigations and extra-professional services for these purposes, he contracted an epidemic fever, of which he died, in the prime of life and public usefulness, leaving a widow and children unprovided for. And there being no public provision for the widows or survivors of those who fall victims to such *extra-professional, extraordinary, and important public service*, this meeting is of opinion, that the case is one in which a public subscription should be raised for the widow and children of Dr. Lynch.”

It has been said that one single disease, typhus fever, commits greater slaughter among the people of England than was sustained by the whole of the allied army at the battle of Waterloo, and that this battle against our people is fought and won every year; and it may be justly added that no class of officers serving in the former suffered so severely as the medical men constantly suffer who are engaged in attendance on the victims of the latter. The fate of the physician whose premature death has occasioned this meeting, is only an example of a very common fate; a fate known to mourning classes of friends, to widows and children left destitute, but not known to the public; or if known, quickly forgotten. I am, therefore, glad that this meeting has been called, because I hope it will be the means of affording relief to the bereaved wife and children in this particular instance; and because I trust it will have the further effect of fixing the attention of the public on the condition of those who suffer such grievous and unrequited loss in their service.

Of all the professions, the members of the medical profession are the shortest lived and the poorest. They are the shortest lived, because while the station of the other learned professions is that of ease and safety, many of the members of the medical profession are engaged in a service as dangerous as that of the officers of the army in the time of actual war. They are the poorest, because it is a rule of the profession to give their time and skill to those who need their aid without waiting to consider their ability to remunerate them. No family suffering from disease, no family in which fever is raging, would ever think of not asking a medical man's attendance because they had it not in their power to pay him; and no medical man whose assistance was asked under such circumstances would ever think of not attending. Is it too much



to say that when one who thus endeavours to save life, and to preserve other families from the utter ruin in which death often involves them, perishes in this generous attempt, the public ought to have some consideration for his family?

In the present state of our country no medical man can attend the poorer classes without the constant risk of his own life. It is quite impossible to make the middle and higher classes sensible of the nature and extent of this risk. They are in a state of utter ignorance of the real condition of the poor under ordinary circumstances; and especially of what sort of thing a poor man's sick chamber is, and therefore they can have no comprehension of the kind of risk incurred by those who enter it with a view to afford the required help.

Last week I was called to see a sick person, in a close court in one of the narrow streets in Rosemary-lane, Whitechapel. The heat of the day was oppressive; the air was almost stagnant; the room was so dark that in broad daylight I was obliged to have a candle to see the patient; the closeness and stench of the room gave me the instant feeling of sickness. The patient was lying with a parched tongue in a burning fever. When leaving the house, I was implored by a woman in the same court to see her husband; and next by a mother to see her child. The air of the sick chambers in each case was the same. Think what it must be to pass a night in such an atmosphere—a night of fever. I left the place with a feeling that I should be glad when a few days had passed over that I might be assured that I had not myself caught the disease; for the danger seemed to me to be imminent.

I know that these descriptions are not believed; at least that they are not realised. We speak of them, but the words call up no pictures of the real scenes. Those only have a vivid perception of them whose duties oblige them to labour in the midst of them. To them facts are often brought home which they wish to impress upon the public mind and heart, but know not how to do so. Such, for example, as the present year's experience of the London Fever Hospital. In the three earlier months of this year namely, in January, February, and March, there were admitted into this hospital eighty-seven patients. During the four subsequent months, there have been admitted six hundred and forty-one. But those of us who daily witness these things, even the individuals who see most of them, after all see but little; see only isolated spots. There is one man, however, who has a comprehensive view of them, and a cold, perhaps, and yet a vivid perception of their results, and that is the Registrar General. I see in the district I happen to know, and in the hospital I daily attend, such facts and scenes as I have described. He gathers together the individual events that close such scenes over the whole country



and adds them up. What does he say is their amount for the last year? I have his record here, and this is his statement:—

“The excess of mortality,” he says, “in the twelve months ending June, 1847, was 66,712; and that in only one fourth part of the population of the United Kingdom.” Tried by a standard which he regards as perfectly correct, the excess of mortality, he says, is nearly 67,000, and that in only one fourth part of the United Kingdom.

Now this, I say, is not believed. It is true it is the simple result of arithmetic, and people may not flatly deny it; may not be absolute unbelievers in it—but they assent with the head and do not feel it with the heart—they have no real, practical, saving faith in it. If they had would the members of the Corporation of London oppose a sanitary bill for the City? If they had, instead of obstructing him in his course, would they not go to the Minister who prepared and brought in this bill, and asking him to accompany them over the lanes, courts, and alleys of the City, the scenes of Dr. Lynch’s labours, would they not say to Lord Morpeth, “This is our condition: see what we regard as ‘*a state of excellence that cannot be surpassed?*’ The Registrar General proclaims that people die! How is this possible? Can you employ the powers that have been entrusted to us better? If so, take them back, or modify them. We have honestly used them to the best of our ability. Yet the Registrar General tells us that the mortality is constantly increasing. We are loth to have all these lives upon our heads. If you can make perfection more perfect, you shall have our best assistance; for whoever may be the saviour, these lives must be saved, if that be possible.”

The Registrar General says, “It is to be feared that, through the pertinacious opposition of parish vestries, of corporations, and of companies, many times the number who have perished this year, many times 66,712 lives, will fall a sacrifice ere the towns in England enjoy, by the intervention of science, a moderate share of the health which nature confers on the country around them.”

If this be so, it can only be because these pertinacious parish vestries, corporations, and companies have lost their faith in arithmetic; place no confidence in the Registrar General’s tables; and do not believe in his 66,712 lives lost, year by year, that might be saved.

If they did, if they realised this dreadful truth—if they saw, in their mind’s eye, this vast multitude perishing—if they pictured in their imagination the suffering that must precede death, and the destitution and pauperism that must follow it, would they entertain any thought of obstructing a Government anxious to terminate this national calamity? Would not their only effort be how they could best co-operate for their country’s good, with statesmen worthy of the name, in accomplishing an object worthy of the age?



But if vestries and corporations are not yet sensible of the true course prescribed to them by the wants and the science of the time, there are two classes that are so. Medical men know the actual physical condition of the people, and understand the full extent of the evils that result from the want of proper sanitary measures. Yet, as a body, they have not taken that active part in promoting sanitary reform which the obligations of knowledge, and the duties arising out of their particular profession require them to take. The ministers of religion likewise know the real state of the people, and are satisfied that until their sanitary condition is improved, they can do but little to elevate their moral and religious character. Let these two professions unite and take counsel together how they may give the most effectual support to the Government. Let them bear in mind one sentence contained in the last Report of the Registrar General. "It is a long time," he says, "before the plainest principles can be carried out. When the works are commenced it will be some years before they can be completed; and as yet nothing has been begun."

There is another passage in this same Report which bears directly upon our present object, and the reading of which will bring me to the immediate purpose of the resolution. "The members of the medical profession," says this Report, "with the exception of the visiting clergy and a few others, stand alone in the circumstance that they discharge their duty at the risk of life. The heroic conduct of those now alive, and of those who have perished, will, we may hope, not be forgotten by their country."

One of the most indefatigable and dauntless of these has perished. We meet to express our hope that what he has done in their service will not be forgotten by the country. It is but a poor compensation for his loss, which the public have it in their power to make to his family: but by making what compensation they can, we trust to see the proof that they begin to recognise their true benefactors.

Mr. RICHARD TAYLOR stated that he felt much satisfaction at being called upon to second the resolution just moved by Dr. Smith, having known the gentleman whose loss we now deplored, and acted with him in different capacities for many years. In the first place, when on the establishment of the New Poor Law he had consented to act as one of the guardians of his district, and to assist in endeavouring to render the new system productive of general benefit, he had had opportunities of witnessing the zeal and ability which Dr. Lynch displayed in the discharge of his duties as a medical officer of the union. And with regard to these Dr. Lynch had gone far beyond the bare fulfilment of the stipulated and arduous duties of his appointment, and had devoted



his time and the energies of his mind to the important object of rendering his practice and experience subservient to the general improvement of the sanitary condition of the population. In another capacity he had also had experience of the worth and usefulness of Dr. Lynch, whose ardent and active mind always led him to take a deep interest in public affairs, and not less in the municipal concerns of his own locality. This had led to his being associated with him in the Common Council, where Dr. Lynch had in view to devote himself especially to the sanitary question; and whatever differences of opinion might have existed upon this or upon other subjects, no one could doubt the honesty, the zeal, the disinterestedness, and ability with which he advocated his views. (Hear.) Having had these opportunities of knowing Dr. Lynch, he had been greatly shocked on receiving (when in a distant part of Europe) the intelligence of the death of one whom he had left in the full enjoyment of health and strength, with the prospect of an honourable career and increased usefulness, and with a wife and young family wholly dependant upon him for support.

Mr. Taylor then adverted to some expressions of the learned mover of the resolution, implying that the Common Council of London had endeavoured to obstruct the introduction of sanitary measures, an imputation for which, however often and confidently repeated, there was no foundation whatever. He regretted this, as a good cause was injured and not promoted by misrepresentation and exaggeration. True it was that the Common Council protested against the bill of Lord Morpeth when they found that, instead of guiding or aiding the Commissioners of Sewers for the City, in the use of their defective powers, or conferring such new powers as might be requisite, the purpose of this bill was to cashier them altogether, in order to substitute some foreign body in their room; and this, notwithstanding the statement of his lordship, that the powers of his act were to be exercised not by any newly-created authorities, but by the Town Councils. They were not to be blamed for protesting against this needless subversion of their constitution, and for challenging inquiry into the manner in which they had exercised such powers as they possessed. To lay to their charge evils which the law had given them no power to deal with was manifestly unjust—such, for instance, as the imperfect supply of water, a defect of the greatest importance in regard to sanitary measures. Formerly the City had two sources of supply, one of which was taken away by Parliament without providing any substitute. The fair way of viewing the subject would be to inquire first, What are the present legal powers of this Commission?—are they duly and fully exercised?—and what further powers are requisite? And the



Commission, consisting of two members for each of the twenty-six wards of the City, annually elected (and generally re-elected), would seem in theory, with the aid of experienced officers, not an unfit body for the exercise of such powers as exist or may be desirable—and the great improvements which this Commission has made and is constantly making fully justifies this opinion. It had been forcibly remarked by the gentleman who had preceded him, with regard to the enormous excess of mortality stated by the Registrar-General, that “though people assented with the head to this lamentable fact, they did not feel it with the heart, and had no practical faith in it,” or they would not be indifferent to sanitary reforms. And would not the same be said of Government and of Parliament, so long as the window-tax existed? The people would never give credit to Government for sincerity as to sanitary measures so long as a tax was retained which shut out from the habitations of the poor two of the first requisites for health, air and light. The Chairman had truly assigned bad ventilation as a principal source of disease, as well as bad drainage, instancing the case of the cellar at Liverpool without a window, inhabited by eighteen persons; and the case in Whitechapel mentioned by Dr. Smith, where the room in which he visited a poor man in a burning fever was so dark, though in the day time, that he was obliged to have a candle to see his patient. In many of the large old houses, inhabited by a number of poor families, several of the windows, and especially the staircase windows, are stopped up to avoid the tax, so that there is no escape for the vitiated air. If, therefore, the Government or the Parliament should be in earnest about sanitary measures, the window-tax will be immediately abolished, and the influence of the clergy no longer be permitted to prolong the practice of burial in towns. He expressed his conviction that the Common Council of London, instead of obstructing, would be glad to assist in promoting sanitary improvements; and having adverted to the general cleanliness of the streets of the City, considering the great traffic, mentioned what had been done, or was about to be done, with regard to some of those neighbourhoods which were accounted the most unhealthy, and which he remarked were mostly Church property, and could not therefore be touched without acts of Parliament, particularly Field-lane, Saffron-hill, and the pestilential districts along the valley of Fleet-ditch, belonging to the Chapter of St. Paul’s and to St. John’s College, Cambridge.

Mr. Taylor apologised for having been led to make these remarks by what had fallen from the preceding speakers, and concluding by earnestly appealing to the liberality of the assembly in favour of the widow and orphans of Dr. Lynch.



Mr. WILLIAM FARR moved the second resolution. He entirely concurred in all that had fallen from the excellent Chairman and his friend Dr. Southwood Smith, particularly as to the Report of the Registrar-General, which, if the public would take the trouble to read attentively, would demonstrate to them the fearful mortality and disease caused by want of sanitary control and attention in towns and cities.

After the able statement of the case by the Chairman, and the affecting speech of Dr. Southwood Smith, Mr. Farr believed the meeting would heartily support the resolution which he had the honour to move. It was to this effect :—

“That the appointment and proceedings of the provisional committee, with these objects, be confirmed by this meeting, and that the following names be added thereto :—Lord Ashley, Richard Taylor, Esq., Mr. Deputy Obbard, G. R. Slaney, Esq., M.P., J. Abel Smith, Esq., M.P., and Mr. Farr; and that the provisional committee be requested to communicate with Her Majesty’s Government and the Corporation of the City of London, and request aid to the local subscription; and that the case of Dr. Lynch be submitted to Her Majesty’s Government for consideration, as one exemplifying the necessity of a public provision being for the future made for similar services.”

It is well known that the part of London called the City is divided into three unions for the relief of the poor. Of one of these unions Dr. Lynch had been for several years the medical officer. He discharged his duties with great zeal, and very much to the satisfaction of the inhabitants. Fever, which always infests London, became epidemic in May last: Dr. Lynch had to visit the poor by day and by night, sick and dying in the worst parts, and necessarily exposed him to the disease. He died at his post, in the prime of life, and has left his wife a widow, his children orphans. Are we not justified in considering them as left in the charge of the city which he served? The medical officer, always so badly paid, who devotes himself to attendance on the poor, is a public servant; he serves the city in which he lives, and he serves his country. If he lose his life, as Dr. Lynch has lost his life, it is a case clearly exemplifying the necessity of a public provision being made for similar services.

So long as fevers assail mankind, the medical man is exposed to greater risks than the members of other professions; and the risk is increased in such localities as London. The part of the City of London, in the sweep round from the Thames between Temple-bar, and from Ludgate-hill, where we now stand, by Smithfield-market to Whitechapel, is one of the densest, dirtiest, deadliest tracts in which human dwellings can be found in Eng-



land. The great mortality was pointed out some years ago in the Registrar-General's Reports. In the years 1838 to 1844, the deaths in the City of London, without the walls alone, were 13,631, which is 5,334 more than would have occurred if the mortality had been the same as in Lewisham, or any of the other comparatively healthy districts in the vicinity of London! The mortality was from 28 to 29 in 1,000 annually. The authorities of the City, whose duty it no doubt was to make themselves acquainted with the sanitary condition of their fellow citizens, believed all the while that for "health the City could not be surpassed." They also put forward claims to "cleanliness," which is attended by health as closely as the heavenly bodies are by light. To Dr. Lynch great credit is due for disabusing them; for making the influential men of his ward and the common council acquainted with the dangerous nuisances in their immediate neighbourhood; he obtained information respecting the mortality; he induced some of them to accompany him, and to witness at once the sufferings, and the sources of sufferings, that in hundreds of cases every year end in death. If Dr. Lynch has fallen on this field, the knowledge which he imparted will not perish; it must tend to confer health and longer life on the people of London. Will the authorities who are by prescriptive right the first to recognise and to reward men who have served their country, not hasten to recognise in the most useful manner the merits of one who has rendered important services to the City of London?

On the ground of his exertions in promoting sanitary improvement, the Committee claim for Dr. Lynch a public recompense, and I think justly. It is the glory of a nation to reward greatly the services of great men; and it is its interest not to allow to pass unnoticed the efforts of the humblest citizens in a public cause. Lord Morpeth is acquainted with Dr. Lynch's labours; and the Government, whose sincerity in sanitary reform—with all respect to Mr. Taylor—is unquestionable, is fully alive to the importance of the cause to which those labours were devoted.

In April last, Dr. Lynch was referred to for evidence on the health of London; in the Registrar-General's Quarterly Table in July there was an unit among the thousands of deaths there recorded. He rests from his labours: the Health of Towns' Bill comes too late to save him; this meeting, the City of London, the Government, cannot restore him to his sphere of usefulness, and to the affections of his family; but it is in their power to mitigate the loss that family has sustained, to surround them by some of the comforts of life, and to enable his children to enter the world, to tread in the steps of their father. By assisting the Committee to accomplish this object, you will consistently confirm



the principle that a medical man who dies in the discharge of his duty is worthy of a public reward; you will impress on the City of London and Her Majesty's Government the value of Dr. Lynch's exertions; you will stimulate other men to imitate his example in the face of danger; and you will bear the strongest possible testimony to the importance of the great cause of sanitary improvement.

Mr. ANDERTON seconded the resolution, and said he regretted the cause which had brought them together for so melancholy a duty as that of assisting to provide for the widow and orphan children of a professional man, who, in the prime of life, had fallen a sacrifice in attending to relieve the sufferings and wants of the poor. He had frequently heard Dr. Lynch expatiate largely upon the sanitary condition of the lower orders resident within the locality in which he was then speaking; he had heard him describe the wretchedness of their dwellings for the want of a better sewerage, for the want of a better circulation of air, and a larger supply of that necessary of life—pure water, and the crowded state in which the poor were compelled to live; but, like many others, he (Mr. A.) was incredulous to the statements, and could not believe that such things could exist, in this the metropolis of England, and the seat of government, until at last he told Dr. Lynch that he would accompany him in his rounds, and examine into the condition of the poor himself; and accordingly he devoted the best part of three days to that purpose. (Hear, hear.) He visited, with the Doctor, some of those wretched localities he had so often spoken of; and although within the immediate vicinity of Farringdon-street and Holborn-hill, he not only found the Doctor's statements fully borne out, but such was the stench and unwholesome smells, that he is convinced that if on the third day he had remained a few minutes longer in the place he was then visiting, that he would not have been present at that meeting to tell the tale. Upon leaving the spot, which was in Field-lane, he was obliged to have recourse to a glass of brandy to relieve him from the nausea which affected him, and which he did not overcome for several days. He found single rooms crowded with men, women, and children, with only a solitary window—some of them with privies in their cellars, and persons living in the same cellars—(hear, hear); whilst others had dunghills and open privies close to their doors, the abominable odours from which it was impossible to describe, and almost all of the inhabitants deprived of the means of cleanliness from the want of water, with which they were scantily supplied only three days a-week, and then only for a few hours; so that, beside the time spent in fetching and scrambling for the water when it was on, they were compelled in their



crowded and wretched apartments to keep a supply of it in open vessels, where it must necessarily soon become impure, and rendered unfit for all domestic purposes. He believed there were other parts of the City and the vicinity equally as bad, and no part of the kingdom could be worse. (Mr. Deputy Obbard: "No, no.") The Deputy said "No, no;" it was because he had not visited them; had he done so, he would have found that neither Dr. Lynch or himself (Mr. A.) had made any exaggeration in their statements; and for the sake of the Deputy and his family, he would recommend him to continue in his ignorance, or, like the Doctor, he too might fall a sacrifice in a public duty. That Dr. Lynch had enemies, he (Mr. Anderton) would admit: but who were without them? He believed that in the domestic relations of life Dr. Lynch was exemplary—he was a good husband and an excellent father, and to the poor ever kind and attentive, and a man warmly devoted to his profession. He (Mr. A.) much regretted his death, having no doubt that had he lived the public would have been still more indebted to him for his assistance in effecting those great sanitary improvements which they so much stood in need of, and which the chairman had himself done so much to effect, and which would be brought to pass if the Government would refrain from endeavouring to force the new adopted system of centralization upon the public, but invest the power of carrying out the sanitary reforms (as they ought to do) in those by whom the means must be contributed and the funds provided. It had been stated that the corporation of London were opposed to the Government measures of sanitary reforms within the City of London, *which was not the truth*: the Corporation of London were as anxious for sanitary improvements within the City, as any body of Her Majesty's subjects could be out of it, they were only determined upon being invested with the power of carrying them out, without the interference of strangers or Government commissioners; and as an earnest of such desire, the Corporation had already presented petitions to both houses of Parliament for preventing the *interment of the dead* in the City, and also to prohibit *the abominable nuisance of smoke* from furnaces and steam engines, which are a disgrace to the country, and early in the next session of Parliament those petitions would be renewed. He agreed with his friend Mr. Taylor, that if the Government were sincere in their sanitary reforms, why not prove it by abolishing the window tax, and allow the public to have a free circulation of air, and enjoy the light from heaven? Why not also pass a general law to enable towns to furnish themselves with the necessary supply of water, without driving them to the expense of going to Parliament for private bills?—why not also the Government prohibit the burying the dead in churches and church-



yards situated in towns and crowded neighbourhoods? Let any person read the statements which have been so frequently published by Mr. Walker, to whom the country owes a debt of gratitude, and they will be astounded at the facts he has given. Smoke is also another abominable nuisance, which the Legislature ought long since to have prohibited. He thought also the Government ought to provide the means of aiding the families of medical men, who, like Dr. Lynch, died in the service of their country in the time of fever and contagious disease. Men who devoted themselves in the service of warfare, and the destroying of lives, were properly rewarded with honours and pensions, whilst those who honourably devoted themselves in saving life, were too generally neglected and overlooked. He hoped a generous public would aid the charitable efforts in which they were embarked. He should himself give his humble aid to the movement, trusting that by their united exertions, and under such a leader as the chairman they would be enabled by their success, to mitigate the sufferings of the widow and her orphans, consequent on the sudden and melancholy death of their natural guardian and protector. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. GEORGE ROSS moved the third Resolution—

“That thanks be given to the Provisional Committee and Mr. Wm. Simpson for their exertions in this truly benevolent cause.”

He said that as a friend of the late Dr. Lynch, and formerly associated with him in another field of labour, he would embrace the opportunity of bearing testimony to the brilliant talents, the vivid eloquence, and classical acquirements of their late lamented friend. He would do homage to his genius and learning. He then commented on the defective sanitary condition of London generally. He declared that nothing could be more filthy or disgusting than many of the courts, alleys, and small streets, in this, the metropolis of the empire. He believed the public generally were fully convinced of the total want of attention to sanitary arrangements, but that they were too indifferent to improvement; and nothing would be done unless the Government took upon itself the entire supervision of every work likely to interfere with the *health of the people*. It was not a crusade against false opinions, but against apathy and obstructiveness that must be carried on. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Drewry Ottley seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN before putting this resolution, in which he entirely concurred, requested the meeting to allow him to mention



one name, as too much credit could not be given for his zeal and humanity, he meant Mr. William Simpson.

Mr. R. TAYLOR highly approved of the suggestion, and never felt more rejoiced in his life than when he returned from the Continent, where he was at the time of the death of Dr. Lynch ; and found this truly benevolent movement had been commenced by his friend, Mr. Simpson, to whose perseverance and philanthropy they must all feel indebted for this opportunity of doing good.

Mr. Toynbee moved, and Mr. Deputy Obbard, seconded the fourth resolution—

“That the best thanks of this Meeting are due to the Chairman, Edwin Chadwick, Esq., for the lively interest he has taken in behalf of Mrs. Lynch and her children.”

Mr. SIMPSON in putting this resolution, said he felt obliged for their kind vote of thanks to himself, Mr. Hunter, and the other members of the committee ; and begged to add his testimony to the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Chadwick, from first to last. No vote of thanks could be sufficient for what he had done—the only adequate reward must be the feelings in his own breast at such successful results.

Mr. CHADWICK, in returning thanks, said finding gentlemen falling, as it were, beside him in this service, it was but a bare act of duty to do whatsoever might be in his power to contribute to the relief of the survivors. In respect to what had fallen from Mr. Richard Taylor, he begged leave, before the meeting broke up, to observe that an impression appeared to have been created that those who proposed sanitary measures advocated the entire abrogation of all local authority, and the substitution of a mere arbitrary and irresponsible Government authority, which was what was usually meant by centralisation. This was what was objected to, and as opposed to this, he found in conversation that many members of the Corporation did not object to a Government supervision, or the supervision and direction of some competent authority unconnected with the locality. (Hear, hear.) On due explanation it may be found that the differences on this subject are not so wide as might at first appear. Mr. Richard Taylor (said Mr. Chadwick) complains that the Corporation, who have the control over the sewerage of the City, have no power over supplies of water. Well, he will find that in the sanitary Report, and

in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the Means of improving the Health of Towns, it is pointed out as a primary administrative defect to be remedied, that the instruments for cleansing are separated; that those who have the management of drains and sewers have no power of applying the water to cleanse them; and that it is absolutely necessary to efficient action that the powers to apply these means should be united under one and the same management. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Taylor complains that some of the worst cleansed parts of the City of London are what are called liberties or extra-parochial places not under the jurisdiction of the Corporation. Well, he will find that this complexity of jurisdiction, these petty authorities, with jurisdictions too small to sustain proper establishments and an efficient staff of paid officers without enormously disproportionate expense, has been pointed out as one of the local administrative defects which must be remedied before proper sanitary measures can be carried out. (Hear, hear.) It is the consolidation and creation of efficient local authorities, the extension of jurisdiction, prescribed in this instance by nature, to the natural drainage areas, which has been exclaimed against as an interference with local self-government. The great difficulty is to amend or constitute efficient and trustworthy local agencies for the purpose. (Hear.) In my view, one object of the supervisory authority required is to collect from the widest fields of experience such information as may best serve for local guidance in the efficient application of their powers. This function has to some extent been already exercised in pointing out defects, as well as means of remedying them, of which the parties themselves were in no one instance aware, or at least to the full extent. On going further into the subject than is necessary or proper here, on considering all which is required to be done, and the means of doing it, Mr. Taylor and other gentlemen will, I hope, perceive and admit cases demonstrative of the necessity of the intervention of a competent and locally disinterested authority, for the protection of reversioners and of minorities, as well as of the public at large. (Hear, hear.) I cannot enter here into these topics, though they affect the health and lives of large masses. We must not forget our duty to the memory of our deceased friend, though if he were present he would take so deep an interest in them as to forget himself, as in his zeal for them he *did* forget himself; and it is our duty to testify our respect to his memory, and as far as we may do provide for his widow and children. (Cheers.)



At the Public Meeting for the purpose of PROMOTING a SUBSCRIPTION for the WIDOW and FAMILY of the late DR. JORDAN ROCHE LYNCH, the following Resolutions were carried unanimously,—EDWIN CHADWICK, Esq., in the Chair;—

Moved by Dr. SOUTHWOOD SMITH, and seconded by RICHARD TAYLOR, Esq., F.R.S.—

“That Dr. Jordan Roche Lynch devoted himself, especially and zealously, during several years, to the development of means for the prevention of disease, and to the improvement of the sanitary condition of the labouring population; and that in the course of special investigations and extra-professional services for these purposes, he contracted an epidemic fever, of which he died, in the prime of life and public usefulness, leaving a widow and children unprovided for. And there being no public provision for the widows or survivors of those who fall victims to such *extra-professional, extraordinary, and important public service*, this meeting is of opinion that the case is one in which a public subscription should be raised for the widow and children of Dr. Lynch.”

Moved by WM. FARR., F.R.S., seconded by JAS. ANDERTON, Esq., C.C.—

“That the appointment and proceedings of the Provisional and Sub-Committee, with these objects, be confirmed by this Meeting, and the following names be added thereto:—Lord Ashley, Richard Taylor, Esq., Mr. Deputy Obbard, G. R. Slaney, Esq., M.P., J. Abel Smith, Esq., M.P., and Mr. Farr; and that the Provisional Committee be requested to communicate with her Majesty’s Government, and the Corporation of the City of London, requesting aid to the local subscription; and that the case of Dr. Lynch be submitted for consideration to her Majesty’s Government, as one exemplifying the necessity of a public provision being for the future made for similar services.”

Moved by GEORGE ROSS, Esq., seconded by D. OTTLEY, Esq.—

“That thanks be given to the Provisional Committee and Mr. Wm. Simpson for their exertions in this truly benevolent cause.”

Moved by JOSEPH TOYNBEE, Esq., F.R.S., seconded by Mr. Deputy OBBARD—

“That the best thanks of this Meeting are due to the Chairman, Edwin Chadwick, Esq., for the lively interest he has taken in behalf of Mrs. Lynch and her children.”

The Committee now consists of Lord Ebrington, Lord Ashley, G. R. Slaney, Esq., M.P.; John Abel Smith, Esq., M.P.; Thomas Wakley, Esq., M.P.; Raikes Currie, Esq., M.P.; Edwin Chadwick, Esq., Dr. Southwood Smith, Dr. Neil Arnott, Richard Taylor, Esq., F.R.S.; James Anderton, Esq., C.C.; Mr. Deputy Obbard, C.C.; Jas. Hunter, Esq.; John Hunter, Esq.; G. A. Walker, Esq.; Robert Blair, Esq.; Wm. Simpson, Esq., G. W. Smith, Esq.; and T. H. Jolley, Esq.

#### Bankers.

Messrs. Praed and Co., Fleet-street, London.

#### Treasurers.

John Hunter, Esq., 11, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.

James Anderton, Esq., 20, New Bridge-street, City.

#### Honorary Secretary.

William Simpson, Esq., 4, High-street, Bloomsbury.

LIST OF NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO  
A FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WIDOW AND  
CHILDREN OF DR. J. R. LYNCH.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Praed & Co., Fleet-street.

TREASURERS.—James Anderton, Esq., 20, New Bridge-street, City;  
John Hunter, Esq., 11, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
The Duke of Buccleuch	10	0	0	Dr. Neil Arnott .....	2	0	0
Marquis of Normanby	10	0	0	Dr. Clutterbuck .....	2	2	0
Earl Fortescue .....	10	0	0	Dr. Duncan, Liverpool	1	1	0
Earl of Ellesmere .....	10	0	0	Dr. Webster, Dulwich	1	1	0
The Bishop of London	10	0	0	Dr. Guy .....	1	1	0
The Bishop of Durham	5	0	0	Professor Owen .....	1	1	0
The Bishop of Norwich				R. D. Grainger, Esq. ...	1	1	0
The Bishop of Llandaff	5	0	0	James Hunter, Esq. ...	5	0	0
Lord John Russell.....	5	0	0	John Hunter, Esq.....	1	1	0
Lord Ashley .....	2	2	0	Robt. Blair, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Lord Morpeth.....	10	0	0	D. Ottley, Esq. ....	2	0	0
Lord Ebrington .....	10	0	0	G. A. Walker, Esq. ...	5	5	0
G. R. Slaney, Esq., M.P.	10	0	0	W. Simpson, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Sir B. Heywood, Bart...	5	0	0	Wm. Farr, Esq. ....	1	1	0
S. J. Lloyd, Esq. ....	10	0	0	George Ross, Esq.....	1	1	0
E. Chadwick, Esq.....	5	0	0	J. Streeter, Esq.....	1	1	0
T. Farrar, Esq. ....	5	0	0	F. Hutchinson, Esq. ...	5	0	0
J. Heywood, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0	T. Abraham, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Sir Geo. Larpent, Bart.				Richard Wallace, Esq.	1	1	0
Richard Taylor, Esq....	5	5	0	A. Barnett, Esq.....	1	1	0
James Anderton, Esq...	5	0	0	D. Sprange, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Douglas Jerrold, Esq...	5	0	0	Joseph Tyrrell, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Thos. Burchfield, Esq.	5	5	0	T. H. Jolley, Esq. ....	2	2	0
S. Burchfield, Esq. ....	2	2	0	Robt. Cooke, Esq. ....	2	2	0
John Watson, Esq. ...	5	0	0	S. H. Gael, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Benj. Fowler, Esq.....	5	5	0	G. W. Smith, Esq.....	1	1	0
Misses Benson, Sussex-				John Sargent, Esq. ...	2	0	0
place .....	4	0	0	— Coxon, Esq. ....	0	10	6
Rev. A. Huxtable .....	2	2	0	— Swain, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Chas. Bracebridge, Esq.	2	0	0	— Lowe, Esq. ....	1	1	0
— Bottrell, Esq.....	2	2	0	— Wade, Esq. ....	1	1	0
Sir J. Clark, Bart., M.D.	5	0	0	C. B. ....	1	1	0
Sir Benj. C. Brodie, Bart.	5	0	0	F. Bullen, Esq. ....	1	1	0
T. Wakley, Esq., M.P.	5	0	0	A Friend .....	1	1	0
Dr. Southwood Smith...	2	0	0	Ditto .....	0	10	6